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Department of Forensic Science	Amendment Designator:
Digital Evidence Procedures Manual	Effective Date: 22-January-2008

7 TARGET DRIVE PREPARATION

7.1 Purpose

To prepare the target drive for receiving of digital data.

7.2 Scope

This procedure contains the proper procedures for preparing digital media in particular hard drives for receiving data.

7.3 Materials - Equipment (Hardware/Software)

The following equipment and materials may be utilized:

- Computer hardware and software
- Video players and recorders (analog and digital)
- Conventional and digital cameras
- Cell phones
- Digital media (floppy disk, CD's, DVD's, flash cards, thumb drives, and hard drives)
- Other image storage devices
- Standard computer tools
- Forensic imaging hardware and software

7.4 Limitations

None for this procedure

7.5 Safety

None for this procedure

7.5 Procedures

- 7.5.1 Select a hard drive that is ready to be utilized as a forensic copy. Hard drives used must be free of other data.
- 7.5.2 Utilize an approved wipe utility to remove the information that may be present. This utility should also be applied to new hard drives (see Appendix C).
 - CAUTION: Failure to wipe the information from previously used drives can lead to the possibility of data from old cases contaminating the new case data.
- 7.5.3 The target drive must have greater storage capacity as that of the original evidence.
- 7.5.4 Insert the target drive into the selected device and boot the computer with an approved forensic boot disk.
- 7.5.5 Format the target drive with the proper file system (such as FAT, FAT32, NTFS, EXT2). Once the format process is completed, enter a suitable name for the drive to denote that this will be the imaged drive (i.e. image, target, etc.).
- 7.5.6 Run DOS fdisk, LINUX fdisk or PART on the imaged drive. Create the new primary DOS partition for the target drive.

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7.5.7 Directories for the hard drive or any other type of media can be created on the target drive in order to keep the proper organization of the evidence.

7.6 References

Owner's Manuals, User's Manuals and appropriate software manuals should be referenced for equipment and operating instructions.

Logicube desktop write protect user Manual.

Digital Intelligence user Manual

Bigelow, Stephen J., Troubleshooting, Maintaining and Repairing PCs. 2nd ed. New York, McGraw-Hill, 1999.

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Nelson, Stephen L. Windows XP an Introduction. New York: Barnes and Noble Books, 2002.

Rathbone, Andy. Windows 95 for Dummies. 2nd ed. Foster City, CA: IDG Books Worldwide, 1997.

Electronic Crime Scene Investigation a Guide for First Responders. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Department of Justice, 2001.

<u>Best Practices for Seizing Electronic Evidence a Pocket Guide for First Responders</u>. 3rd ed. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Department of Homeland Security, United States Secret Service.

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